

App. No. 10/073,670
Amendment Dated: June 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated March 7, 2005 rejected Claims 1-22. Claims 3, 11, and 17-19 are amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-22 are currently pending in this application. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action stated that the abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art. Specifically, the Office Action stated that lines 8-11 of the abstract refer to purported merits of the instant invention and should therefore be reworded or removed. Applicants have amended the specification to remove the portion of the abstract that refer to purported merits of the invention.

The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, Claim 3 was rejected because it was unclear as to whether "identifier" refers the first identifier or the second identifier of Claim 1. Claim 18 was rejected for improperly depending on Claim 18, and Claim 19 was rejected for depending on an improper claim. Applicants have amended Claim 3 to recite that "the first identifier and the second identifier comprise a Universal Resource Identifier." Furthermore, Applicants have amended Claims 18 and 19 properly depend on Claim 17. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claims 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, Claims 11-19 were rejected the claim limitations did not address the functionality of the disclosed data structures. Applicants have amended Claims 11 and 17 such that it is clear that the discovery document of Claim 11 and the response document of Claim 17 are "stored in the data structure". Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 is overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft Corporation, "Draft: Discovery of Web Services (DISCO)" (hereinafter "the DISCO document"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 20-22 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over the DISCO document in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112270A1. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

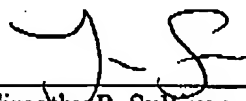
Attached at the Appendix hereto is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 executed by each of the co-inventors that states that the DISCO document is the co-inventors' own work. The effective filing date of the present application is February 9, 2001 which is the filing date of a provisional application that the present application claims priority to. The DISCO document was first published in July 2000, less than one year before the effective filing date of the present application. Therefore, the DISCO document does not qualify as prior art under section 102(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Also attached at the Appendix hereto is a replacement Figure 5. The drawing required replacement because none of the reference numbers in the drawing corresponded to the specification.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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